

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 OMB-01 IO-13 SAJ-01 /081 W

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R 191413Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3258

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION USNATO

CINCEUR

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E.O. 11"12: NA

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL AND PRESS REACTION TO U.S.-GREECE DCA

1. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN A MIXED PUBLIC REACTION BY TURKISH POLITICAL LEADERS AND EDITORIAL WRITERS TO THE SIGNING OF THE U.S.-GREECE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) AND THE SUBSEQUENT "THREE POINT OFFER" TO TURKEY MADE BY GREEK PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE STATEMENTS BY PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AND FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL (ANKARA 3118 AND ANKARA 3120), POLITICAL LEADERS' COMMENTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A. JUSTICE PARTY (JP) SENATOR KAMRAN INAN (CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE) IS QUOTED IN APRIL 18 TERCUMAN AS SAYING THAT THE U.S.-GREEK AGREEMENT

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WAS "ENTIRELY A POLITICAL PLOT AGAINST TURKEY.....THE AIM

OF PRESENTING THE TWO AGREEMENTS TO CONGRESS TOGETHER WAS TO HAVE BOTH REJECTED TOGETHER. GREECE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BY THE REJECTION OF THE AGREEMENT, BUT THE EMBARGO WOULD CONTINUE AGAINST TURKEY."

B. IN AN INTERVIEW GIVEN TO GERMAN TELEVISION, DEPRIMIN FEYZIOGLU STATED THAT THE FAILURE OF THE U.S. CONGRESS TO RATIFY THE U.S.-TURKISH DCA WOULD MEAN THAT THE "MILITARY RELATIONS FORESEEN IN THE AGREEMENT WOULD DEFINITELY COME TO AN END" AND THE SOUTHEASTERN WING OF NATO "WOULD BE DRAGGED INTO A TOTAL CRISIS." HE SAID, "TURKEY'S STANCE TOWARD NATO DEPENDS ON THE STANCE OUR NATO ALLIES ADOPT TOWARD US."

C. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) DEP SEC GEN ISIK (MINDEFENSE IN FORMER ECEVIT GOVERNMENT) IS QUOTED IN APRIL 19 GUNAYDIN AS SAYING HE FOUND IT "VERY SIGNIFICANT" THAT CARAMANLIS HAD OFFERED A NON-AGGRESSION PACT AFTER HAVING RECEIVED U.M. "GUARANTEES" ON THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO ISIK THIS MEANT THAT TURKEY HAS BEEN TOLD TO "ACCEPT THE STATUS QUO IN THE AEGEAN."

3. INITIAL PRESS RESPONSE TO THE CARAMANLIS NON-AGGRESSION PACT OFFER WAS MIXED. CUMHURIYET AND GUNAYDIN APRIL 19 PUBLISHED AN ANKA NEWS AGENCY STORY WHICH PROCLAIMED THE OFFER A "KISSINGER PLAN" AGREED TO IN BRUSSELS. THE ARTICLE ALSO STATED THAT "IMPARTIAL OBSERVERS" SAID THAT THE APPEAL WAS A "US INTRIGUE TO SECURE GREEK SUPERIORITY IN THE AEGEAN." TERCUMAN APRIL 18 LINKED THE U.S.-GREEK PACT, THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY CODEL SOLARZ (SEPTEL), THE NON-AGGRESSION OFFER AND THE CARAMANLIS STATEMENT THAT GOG WOULD HAVE "NO OBJECTIONS" IF U.S. CONGRESS DISAPPROVED BOTH AGREEMENTS AS POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF A "NEW INTRIGUE" BY GREECE AND THE GREEK LOBBY AGAINST TURKEY.

4. MILLIYET EDITOR, ABDI IPEKCI, WHO APRIL 16 EDITORIALY COMPARED THE U.S.-TURKEY AND THE U.S.-GREECE DCA'S AND CONCLUDED THAT "EITHER TURKEY HAS BEEN FOLLED OR GREECE HAS BEEN FAVORED," RESPONDED MORE FAVORABLY TO CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT. IPEKCI WROTE APRIL 19 THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELCOMED WPD "IT IS HOPED THAT CARAMANLIS IS SINCERE IN HIS RECOMMENDATIONS." OTHER EDITORIALISTS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT GREEK MOTIVES, BUT WERE FAVORABLY INCLINED TO THE PROPOSALS. AS ALI SIRMEN IN APRIL 19 CUMHURIYET WROTE, "WHATEVER THE INTENTION BEHIND IT, IT IS STILL A FAVORABLE STEP."

5. COMMENT: THE RELATIVE SILENCE OF THE RPP SO FAR IS PROBABLY

ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE PARTY'S CONCENTRATION ON PUBLIC
PRONOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE STUDENT VIOLENCE ISSUE DURING
THE APRIL 17-18 WEEKEND. AS RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT'S
COMMENTS TO CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ INDICATE (ANKARA 3107)
THE RPP HAS A VERY CRITICAL ATTITUDE AND NO DOJT WILL
CONTINUE PROBING FOR WEAKNESSES IN THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING
OF TURKISH-GREEK AND TURKISH-U.S. RELATIONS.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA03136
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760147-1141
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760448/aaaabosg.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL AND PRESS REACTION TO U.S.-GREECE DCA
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006